success down to his lamented death in the spring of 1896. He left a devoted wife and family to mourn his loss.

Though ever leading an active life, and having a share in all public events in Douglas from the year 1872, he still found time in his leisure hours for deep and extensive reading in astronomy. In the autumn of 1887 Mr. Keig founded the Manx Astronomical Society. On the top of his own house he constructed an observatory. He loved to prove everything by his own research. The moon was one favourite object of his careful study. He noted down various phenomena which seemed to contradict the universally recognised theory as to the non-existence of a lunar atmosphere. He verified night after night these results. He wrote a paper describing his observations, and drawing the conclusion that the moon must have an atmosphere, which he read before the Liverpool Astronomical Society. Mr. Keig was not only the founder but the mainstay of the Manx Astronomical Society, by ever allowing his own studio to be the welcome home of their fortnightly meetings. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1889 February 8, and was the first resident Manxman who has enjoyed this distinction.

As a citizen of Douglas, Mr. Keig stood forth in the front rank. Again and again he was elected chairman of the Town Commissioners, and when the town was recently created a borough, Douglas could find no worthier son than Thomas Keig, F.R.A.S., to rule and guide, as first mayor, her new and enlarged destinies.

[For the above particulars the Council is indebted to the Rev. Edmund Walsh, R.C.P., of Douglas, I.M.]

The Rev. THOMAS MACKERETH was born at Helsington, near Kendal, on 1823 April 28. He was of humble parentage, and was apprenticed to a plumber in Manchester; but losing his parents at the age of 20, and not finding his calling congenial, he studied for and obtained an elementary schoolmaster's first-class certificate. He began a successful career as a schoolmaster in Salford, taking up his residence at Eccles in 1860, and among his pupils are a number of prominent men in South Lancashire and elsewhere. In 1878 he left the Salford School for the pastorate of the Bolton Society of the New Jerusalem Church, and held this office till 1886, when, owing to failing health, he had to retire to his native county, taking a house at Ambleside, and removing eventually to Windermere.

While at Eccles, he erected a $4\frac{1}{4}$-inch equatorial and a transit instrument, being assisted by the late Mr. Joseph Baxendell and Mr. J. B. Dancer, both his close friends. He often lectured on astronomy, and was always ready to help and encourage young students. He continued his almost nightly observations at Bolton, but there he had to leave his equatorial, as his failing health would not permit of exposure to the night air. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1865 March 10, and was also

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a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and a regular meteorological observer. He died on 1897 January 20, after a long and weary illness, leaving a widow, one son, and three daughters.

SAMUEL HICKLING PARKES was born at Birmingham on 1817 April 8. He was the eldest son of Mr. James Parkes, of Handsworth, the founder of a firm of optical and mathematical instrument makers in St. Mary's Row, Birmingham, and joined his father in this business about the age of sixteen. He worked hard to develop this business, but always found time for scientific pursuits. He married Miss Emma Lloyd Kershaw, and they had one child, Mr. S. T. H. Parkes, who survives them. Mr. S. H. Parkes died on 1896 August 12. Among his papers was found the following note, which his son has kindly communicated to the secretaries. "A short obituary is always requested by the R.A.S. for insertion in their proceedings. If this must be, I wish it to be as brief as possible. No reference to early school days, &c., but simply spent a practical, uneventful life—early devotion to study of general science, especially natural history and comparative physiology. This pursued through life, while engaged in active business. Occasionally lecturing gratuitously on these subjects. Uniform endeavour to act under the influence of religious principles, and to employ talents and knowledge bestowed in useful ministrations to others. When unable to engage in active duties, wrote and published *Unfinished Worlds.*"

It does not seem possible to comply with the spirit of this note better than by quoting it verbatim, adding simply that Mr. Parkes lived from 1865 to 1885 at King's Norton, where he had an observatory and a 5-inch refractor telescope. This was disposed of about ten years ago, and his later scientific observations were confined to microscopy. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1882 January 13.

SIR JOHN PENDER was born in 1815, and was the son of the late James Pender, of the Vale of Leven, Dumbartonshire. He was educated at the High School, Glasgow, and began a successful business career in Glasgow and in Manchester. His work in relieving the suffering during the Cotton Famine is still remembered with gratitude; but his chief work, which he began about the age of forty, was connected with submarine telegraphy. In 1857, when the late Mr. Cyrus Field organised the first attempt to lay an Atlantic cable, Mr. Pender was one of the contributors of 1,000*l.* towards the expenses. This attempt was unsuccessful, but the experience gained gave sufficient confidence for another in the following year, and this cable was actually laid, although it only worked for twenty-eight days. The next attempt was made in 1864, after considerable difficulty in getting the money together, and was only rendered possible ultimately by Mr. Pender offering his personal guarantee for a quarter of a million. After two-

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